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HISTORICAL RECORDS

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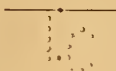
STATEN ISLAND,

Centennial and Bi-Centennial,

FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS AND MORE.

DELIVERED AT STATEN ISLAND, NOVEMBER 1ST, 1883,

BY HON. ERASTUS BROOKS.



"Gutenberg, without knowing it, was the mechanist of the new world. In creating the communication of ideas, he has assured the independence of reason. Every letter of his alphabet which left his fingers contained in it more power than the armies of kings or the thunders of pontiffs. It was mind which he furnished with language."

—Lamartine's History of the Girondists.

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HISTORICAL RECORDS.

Fellow Citizens of Staten Island:

THE proper orator for an occasion like the present would be some descendant of one either born upon the soil or descended from some one of its inhabitants—one who by heroism, influence or action had made a part of its early history. Two hundred years of time, long as it may seem to American citizens, is but a small period in the history of countries like England, Germany, Austria or France, the old nations of Europe, each of which count their years of settlement by more than eleven centuries of time. Russia counts her existence by less than a third of this period, or in a period beginning about the time when, as in 1523, VERRAZANI sailed along our shores.

The people who are here now, and those who preceded them, belong to almost all the nations of the earth.

We know but little of the pre-Revolutionary history of Staten Island, and not all we would like to know of its Revolutionary history, and there are some things we do know we wish not to remember or desire to forget. In this respect, however, most of our predecessors were in no sense a peculiar people. Whether in old New England or present New England, or on to the Hudson, the Potomac, the Savannah, and beyond as far as the Colonies went east or west, north or south, there were devotees of Great Britain, who from the beginning of the first sign of the separation from the mother country dreaded the act itself.

The foremost men who took part in the war, when it came, were perhaps as timid as those who saw the end from the beginning, were of this class. It was what is sometimes called destiny, but what we may more wisely call Providence, or the ways of God to man, that pointed and paved the way of independence. Step by step, the end came from the day when HENDRICK HUDSON first named the Island in honor of "the Island of the States" of Holland, and as far as we know, made it his first landing place or *station*, which it was once erroneously suggested was the origin of the name we bear. "*Aquchonga Manachnong*" was at least one of the aboriginal names of the Island. "*Eggenahous*," the place of bad woods, was another local name. Here was one of the first Dutch settlements in the New World. Here, or very near here, 242 years ago, the Dutch Colony was attempted or planted. And even then HUDSON had been so long dead that his first voyage of discovery, as well as his sad ending by treachery upon the sea was almost forgotten. No one knows the resting place of either VERRAZANI or HUDSON.

The first immigrants who landed here from old Holland were disabled and sick with fevers. Even in the spring time the voyage continued for 122 days, and we read, that like Alexander the Great, "they were much put out and annoyed by the angry waves." The first home site upon this Island was selected for its close proximity to the sea, for its surrounding uplands, and for the general beauty of the scenery. This grandeur of highland and forest, of ocean and inland views over sea and land, has never left our island homes. We may speak of it indeed almost in the graphic language of COLUMBUS to FERDINAND and ISABELLA, when, of his discoveries, he wrote home that "this country exceeds all others as far as the day exceeds the night in splendor." Later on, September 15th, 1609, HENDRICK HUDSON from just beyond our island, in a more utilitarian spirit, wrote home from the Half Moon, "Of all the lands in which I ever set my foot this is the best for tillage." And this discernment is as true to-day of the capacities of this island as it was 274 years since. There were

mineral attractions that won the eyes and ears of those beyond the sea. But what they took for gold was sand, and these sand banks were the first in the country to be used for making a kind of glass which was declared to be for "highly useful and ornamental purposes." Even the iron pyrites with which the Indians painted their faces, was pronounced to be gold until 1645, when the Amsterdam Company tested its value in the crucible of common science and common sense. The iron is still here with, I fear on the whole, much more of labor and enterprise than of profit, but such was the old time value placed upon the ore that the Government was petitioned to protect the gold seekers and other miners from the incursion of the Raritan Indians.

The grant of land which included what is now known as Staten Island and the Arthur Kull, came from the West India Company, was made to the two Patroons, KILLIAN VAN RENSELLAER and MICHAEL PAUW in 1630. This land grant extended from Troy and Albany to the Sound. Staten Island fell to the lot of PAUW, whose possessions extended from Hoboken to our ocean borders. Communipaw was named from PAUW, and simply meant the Commune-of-Pauw, the word Commune having a very different meaning in 1630 and in 1883. In the former case it meant simply a vast tract of land in the possession of one man.

HISTORICAL OLD-TIME PLACES.

One of these is Toadt Hill, since called Iron Hill, on account of the iron pyrites found along upon the elevations. In the Revolutionary War the hill was a look-out station from land to the sea. The old elm tree Beacon at the foot of New Dorp Lane, and overlooking all the surrounding country, was also a British signal station. British vessels of war covered Bay and harbor alike. The Whale's Back was the name of another of the old-time stations. At old Fort Tompkins, now Fort Wadsworth, was a block house, built for a defense against the Indians, just two hundred years ago, with

only two small cannon as a protection against all kinds of foes.

From 1776 to 1783, the British had their principal signal station near the present fort, and in the war of 1812-15, the same station was used by the Americans, with Dr. CLARK, father of the present Senior Dr. CLARK, in command. The old Guion Homestead, near the sea, the present residence of Dr. EPHRAIM CLARK, is one of the old landmarks if not the oldest building upon the Island. I have recently seen the deed of the farm signed by Gov. ANDROS in 1675, as the agent and representative of the Duke of York; the net rent of this land, some two or three hundred acres in all, and still a good farm, was payable yearly in eight bushels of good winter wheat; the receipts by payment are still preserved. (See Appendix A.)

No British footsteps have trodden upon our shores since November, 1783. The little fort, though useless for defence now, in the second war with England was equal to the occasion. In the civil war of 1861-65 when an old rebel iron clad off Norfolk sunk two of our best frigates, we had our panic of what might happen here, but a Staten Island Engineer, ALFRED STIMERS, under Capt. WORDEN, just in the nick of time for the public safety, drove off the enemy and most providentially protected the coast from rebel invasion.

I propose, under three heads, to consider some of the chief events which have inspired the commemoration in which, as citizens, we are to-day engaged, and in a brief appendix to name some of the habits and customs of Indian life upon the Island, adding to this a brief record of its material resources and values.

OUR PRE-REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

Is almost purely local, except as this Island shared in events of special history to the whole Province. The past events recall subjects of general interest to men who care to know who they are, from whence they came, and what they owe to the land of their birth and adoption. Our Irish, German and British born citizens through

the lands which gave them birth, one and all, have some connection in the subjects and facts which I shall name. I shall be made happy if the hour proves one of instruction or pleasure to those who hear me.

Where Manhattan Island was once, and finally, sold for a barter value at \$24, this Island, under LOVEFACE, was bought April 13, 1670, of the "true owners and lawful Indians," at the following price, the right to sell being Indian as stated in the indenture, because the land "was devised to them by their ancestors." Nine Sachems signed the deed, and the sale reads as follows:

"The payment agreed upon for ye purchase of Staten Island, conveyed this day by ye Indian Sachems property is, viz.:

1. Four hundred fathoms of wampum.
2. Thirty match boots.
3. Eight coates of Durens made up.
4. Thirty shirts.
5. Thirty kettles.
6. Twenty gunnes.
7. A firkin of powder.
8. Sixty barres of lead.
9. Thirty axes.
10. Thirty horns.
11. Fifty knives."

Later on CORNELIS MELYN sold, as Patroon, his own limited interest in the Island for \$600.

Another sale of the Island by the Indians was for "certain cargoes or parcels of goods." The sale of PAUW brought 26,000 guilders "for his purchases upon the Island and Continent."

The West India Company, in all cases, insisted that the four Commissioners, acting as Patroons, should extinguish all Indian titles before their own ownership could be confirmed.

The sale of Staten Island under Gov. DONGAN, which was but one of many sales, included "all the messuages, tenements, fencings, orchards, gardens, pastures, meadows, marshes, woods, underwoods, trees, timbers, quarries, rivers, brooks, ponds, lakes, streams, creeks, harbors, beaches, fishing, hawking, fowling, mines, (silver and gold mines excepted), mills, mill dams," &c.

All this was to be called "the Lordship and Manor of Cassiltowne," and there was more than ordinary diplomacy in the conveyance. Gov. DONGAN conveyed all of the above land, woodland and water, to one PALMER, both his lawyer and his judge, because he could not legally hold it himself; but two weeks after DONGAN's conveyance, or on the 16th of April, 1687, JOHN PALMER and SARAH, his wife, transferred all these possessions to THOMAS DONGAN, kinsman of the Governor.

To Gov. DONGAN, whose home, castle and hunting lodge on the Kills and on the Manor road, the present State is indebted for some of its existing records and laws. By instructions dated May 29, 1686, he was directed to issue marriage licenses, and this authority was continued up to the period of the Revolution. The "General Entry" and the "Order in Council," official books, are filled with these entries from 1686 to 1775. The separate register of marriage was made by the Secretary before license could be granted. A bond was also required, and 40 bound volumes at the State Capitol contain most of these bonds and licenses. The Quakers dissented from these requirements, and as not unfrequently before and since, when Quakers deliberately make up their minds to a conclusion, they disobeyed the law and recorded their own marriages only in their own church registers.

These State records in various forms and upon various subjects, make up twenty-one volumes of the Dutch Government of the Province of New York, and all in all they contain the very essence of our earliest European civilization in all that relates to schools, churches and courts of law. Then, as so often since, the law was in advance of its administration. In one of these volumes are the acts of the first Assembly of New York, from 1683-84. These are called "the Dongan Laws."

UNDER THE DONGAN LAWS.

Gov. DONGAN came to the Province of New York as its Governor in 1682, and was here known as Lord of the Manor. He was a firm believer in the religious and political faith of JAMES II., whether as Duke of York or as King, except that DONGAN was far more tolerant, and hated the French, under whom he had once served as a military officer. He knew his friends and his foes, and how to govern each class of them upon this island, where he had his hunting lodge far up the present Manor road, and his Manor, called the Castle, erected in 1688, on the north shore, in a full square of land, which extended from Bodine and Dongan Streets to the waters of the Kill von Kull. He was as fond of land as any of his ancestors or successors in the land which gave him birth. To JOHN PALMER, fresh from Barbadoes, just two hundred years ago, he gave what is known as the "Dongan" or "Palmer" patent. The stream separates Northfield from Castleton, and on its borders is the source of the spring water brought to many of your doors, and known as "Palmer's Run." The Governor made this man the first Judge of the first Court of Oyer and Terminer, and the Treasurer of the Province. PALMER was his land agent and the "Palmer Patent" meant DONGAN's lands, and covered large tracts in different parts of the Island and included the salt meadows.

No one man figures more prominently in our Provincial history, and no one upon the Island as conspicuously as that of THOMAS DONGAN, from the date of his commission as the first Royal Governor. His first service was under the Duke of York. Later on he was ordered to proclaim JAMES II. king, to assist at the conference between Lord EFFINGHAM and the Five Nations, and in causing the king's arms to be set up through all the villages of the Five Nations, and to place arms in their hands. Among his many summary measures, all probably by royal authority, was one proposing to annex Pemaquid to Boston, and the less modest one of annexing New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island to

New York. Another order was to establish in the Province a colony of Indian Catholics. Constant claims of authority were asserted over the Senecas, Onondagas, Mohawks and Iroquois, and to make an alliance of the latter tribe with the Eastern Indians, and instigate them against the French.

The French and English were as crafty in their Indian diplomacy as they were desperate in their merciless ventures against each other, and especially was this true in all their intercourse with the Indians. Only one example of this joint correspondence is added as a specimen record of scores of letters.

EXTRACTS FROM DOCUMENTARY LETTERS IN 1686-87.

MR. DENONVILLE, Sept. 29, 1686 :

* * * "Think you, sir, that religion will progress whilst your merchants supply, as they do, *eau de vie* in abundance, which converts the savages, as you ought to know, into demons and their cabins into counterparts and theatres of hell?"

And DONGAN, later on, Dec. 11th, answers :

"Certainly our rum doth as little hurt as your brandy, and in the opinion of Christians is much more wholesome, * * * to prohibit them all strong liquors seems a little hard and very Turkish."

The Governor's name remained upon the Island in his kinsmen for a century and more after his forced retirement, but long ago the family disappeared.

The last of the original name and immediate family, the State records tell us, reduced himself by vice to be a sergeant of foot or marines in 1798-99. The tombstone of WALTER DONGAN, and of RUTH his wife, was made in 1749 in the graveyard of St. Andrews Church. Another WALTER DONGAN died at the age of 93, and this one was the owner of a large property at the Four Corners. Another, known by the not very dignified title of "JACKY DONGAN," the Surrogate in 1733, was known as a free liver, a fast man, and several times "Member of Assembly!" Being what is called a fast liver and a Member of Assembly, your present speaker almost ventures to trust makes no really necessary association in either life, service or practice; but who

can tell? All experience proves that the bad name in public service is not easily prevented. You may serve party and people with fidelity, but no man can serve God and mammon, at least with success, in any public place or body.

AMONG OTHER NOVELTIES IN THE STATE DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

is the memorable report of Gov. DONGAN, covering forty octavo printed pages, dated February 22d, 1687, and addressed to the Foreign Committee of Trade. The Governor is meeting the several queries of their Lordships, and to the 10th inquiry he answers as follows:

"I believe for these seven years last past there has not come over into this province twenty English, Scotch or Irish familys. But on the contrary on Long Island the people increase so fast that they complain for want of land and many remove from thence into the neighboring province."

In another paragraph of this report their Lordships are, first by Sir EDMUND ANDROS and then by Gov. DONGAN, told that the Province of New York will fail to supply the needed revenue unless His Majesty will be graciously pleased to add "the Colony of Connecticut to the province of New York," which is "the Centre of all his Dominions in America!"

Sir JOHN WERDEN, in a letter to the Governor, dated St. James, in Nov. 1684, writes that

"Staten Island without doubt belongs to ye Duke, for if SIR GEORGE CARTERETT had had right to it that would have been long since determined, and those who broach such fancyes as may disturbe the quiett of possessions in ye Island are certainly very injurious to ye Duke, and we thinke have noe color for such pretences!"

In a letter to the Earl of Perth, Feb. 13, 1684-5, the Governor also declared that:

"The Island had been in the possession of his R'll Highss above 20 years (except ye little time ye Dutch had it) purchased by Gov. LOVELACE from ye Indjans in ye time of Sir GEORGE CARTERET without any pretences 'till ye agents made claime to it; it is peopled with above two hundred ffamilyes."

In the same letter we read that

"The Quakers are making continued pretences to Staten Island, which disturbs the people, and one reason given for holding it is that if his Royal Highness cannot retrieve East Jersey it will do well to secure Hudson's River and take away all claim to Staten Island!"

THE FIRST DUTCH COLONISTS

came to America in 1623, and the first white child, it is believed, born in the country was of the RAPELYE family first settled upon this Island. The want of food, for a brief time, took the parents to the extreme Southern point of Manhattan Island.

The first settlement of this New York Province, Island and State, was inspired by the landing of the Pilgrims. While the first voyage was merely one for discovery and venture, forty-one years later came the first General Assembly based upon popular representation, convened by request of burgomasters and schepens. It was at this period that CHARLES II. seized the Dutch settlements for the Duke of York, and with them the block house on Staten Island. And with the seizure came the order that every third man, "with spade, shovel and wheelbarrow," is required to work on the city defences. The brewers were forbidden to malt any more grain. Fort Amsterdam just then, 1644, became Fort James, and the great city received its first christening as "New York," which it has since retained.

FOR A HUNDRED YEARS AT LEAST

the Island was in a constant state of strife or warfare with the Indians, and then as ever since the native sons of the forest, I do not hesitate to say, were more sinned against than sinful.

The Dutch in all New York were at times even harder masters than the English in New England or in New York. Staten Island had its open traitors in the person of MELYN and his chief, one KURTER, both of whom the Attorney-General pronounced worthy of death. Banishments and fines were made and compromises agreed upon for these offences. Old Governor

STUYVESANT stood in double hostility to the Indians and to the English, and was a severe ruler over all his officials. Having with them neither nominal nor real authority, MELYN called Staten Island his colonies, and in a second strife STUYVESANT was summoned to answer charges of armed hostility and to appear before him. MELYN then fortified himself upon the Island, and here, as Patroon, occupied what he called his Manorial Court. As a consequence of this contention the houses and lands of MELYN in New Amsterdam were confiscated and sold.

In one of the many tragedies growing out of conflicts with the Indians, 64 canoes and from 1,500 to 1,900 savages suddenly appeared before New Amsterdam, and later invaded Staten Island, where every white person was killed or captured. The captives in time, after fraud and barter, were returned in exchange for what was called an equivalent in powder to be used against the people at large. In one of these conflicts, in the present New York, the Indians killed one hundred whites, took 150 prisoners, and destroyed in 1655, \$80,000 worth of property. And the sole cause of all this strife may be traced to the shooting of a squaw whose offence was stealing a few peaches in his garden, by HENDRICK VAN DYCK, once Attorney-General. The killing was instantaneous, but the revenge was prolonged in time and in ferocity, and ever since the Indians have been taught to be just as unsparing in the work of retaliation as their assailants.

For a long time there was between the Dutch, English and Indians constant deaths by violence in the struggle for supreme power. Both the Walloons and Huguenots were here in considerable numbers, and devoted to a faith for which so many in Europe had sacrificed their homes, their lives and their fortunes. Like the Pilgrims they fled to the New World for liberty of conscience, but too many of them when in power, the honored name of ROGER WILLIAMS always excepted, practiced the very persecutions from which they fled.

RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSIES.

Governor DONGAN's brief government was conspicuous for a fierce controversy between citizens of an opposite religious faith. He could not, or would not, and this was to his credit, follow the extreme views of the Duke of York either as Prince or King. He not only hated the French in Canada and everywhere with a true English repugnance, but the authority which appointed him and the faith in which he believed and the men whom he appointed to office caused a panic upon the Island in 1689. The Protestant people in their terror for a time fled to the forest by day and to their boats for concealment by night, and those who fled seemed to believe that fire and sword were to be the consequences of their religious faith. On either side, however, but with most impressive exceptions, the religion of the land was not one of peace and good will, but rather a religion based upon terror, fear, flight and strife.

The State papers tell us that the Government had a religious Governor, and established its church at New York and Staten Island, with a salary for the rectors of £100 per annum for the town and £50 per annum for the Island, to be raised from the people. The Society added £50. If the Government sent a minister he must be chosen by the people and inducted by order of the Governor, and this Island, we read, resisted one payment because "the person inducted had not received the Societies' leave to remove."

GROWTH OF THE PROVINCE AND NATION.

The Nation of which we are citizens through all time has been peculiar in its birth, growth and destiny. Read the Preamble to the Federal Constitution, and further back, as the very basis of this fundamental law, the Declaration of Independence; later again, Washington's Farewell Address, which has always impressed me as a political inspiration in the form of a great paternal prayer and warning from one long called and known as the "Father of his Country." I use the word as the

Saviour of Men expressed a still higher thought when he said : "One is your Father and all ye are brethern!"

And most of all read, as the beginning of the end, the bold, noble, manly record put forth in this province just two hundred years ago, and then and there styled "the Charter of Liberties." The "order" which Gov. DONGAN brought to this Colony was in advance of all that had gone before and has hardly been eclipsed since, but it has taken two hundred years to win the prize and requires constant warfare to maintain and hold it.

Gov. DONGAN came, in 1682, "with instructions first of all to convoke a free Legislature." This assembly numbered seventeen members and never exceeded twenty-seven. On the 17th of October, 1683, seventy years after Manhattan was first occupied, and thirty after the Dutch had demanded a popular Convention, the representatives met in assembly and established a Charter of Liberties, which placed New York side by side with Massachusetts and Virginia. This Charter gave supreme legislative power to Governor, Council and people met in General Assembly, and it is worthy of our time and any land. (B, Appendix.) Let me quote two or three sentences only as a type of the whole :

"No freemen shall be punished but by judgment of his peers ; all trials shall be by a jury of twelve men. No tax shall be assessed on any pretence whatever but by the consent of the Assembly. No seaman or soldier shall be quartered on the inhabitants against their will. No martial law shall exist. No person professing faith in God by JESUS CHRIST shall at any time be in any way disquieted or questioned for any difference of opinion."

All this is grand, and worthy of any State or nation, but neither under King JAMES nor any other king did this record become the law of the land, and not here, until the Constitution made free and independent States, were the people in any sense supreme in authority. Too long a local priesthood and partisan civil power combined to govern the State, and each party ruled in the spirit of what they were pleased to call "Divine authority," but the divinity which shaped their ends was simply the combination of Church and State.

The king's ministers were the people's masters. The real State and the nominal Church were supreme.

The Crown and Parliament, where the Parliament represents the people, were as distinct as the will and inheritance of the most unbridled one man power can be from a government of a Democracy or from Republican power delegated by the people. As late as 1697, the Crown instructed the Earl of Bellemont, as Governor of the Province of New York, to appoint judges, create courts, prorogue Assemblies, disperse revenues, and to direct all acts of legislation in his own name and person. The Bishop of London alone could license the school masters of New York. No person could keep any printing press, nor print anything without the special leave and consent of the Governor. The verdicts of juries were set aside by order of the king even in 1765. This was the kind of royal power which the people both resented and rebuked, and which, not until 100 years later, culminated, first, in the Declaration of Independence, then in the War of the Revolution, and finally in the Federal Constitution. It required not alone the one hundred, but the full two hundred years to-day celebrated, to secure freedom alike for the people of New York and for the citizens of the United States. Indeed, this side of the millenium there can never be any cessation in the struggles for conscience over error, right over wrong, for truly liberty before license, whether in the State, the temptations of business or in our own personal lives. With GROTIUS dead and almost forgotten, BARNEVELDT also dead, popular right nowhere esteemed, the thirty year's contests concluded, rather without than with concessions for the claims which caused the war; with civil war in England; CHARLES I. beheaded; JAMES, King of England, openly resisting the Charter I have read, and which declared that justice and right may be equally done to all persons, not respected, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire denied all civil liberty; the Charter of Connecticut hidden in the oak at New Haven, and New York and New Jersey included in "the New Dominion," it is not strange that

it was not until 1691 that the General Assembly passed the original charter of liberty, which the king repealed in 1697.

As one of the incidents of these early times, just 210 years since from the date of the 7th of last August, a Dutch fleet of twenty-three ships, needing wood and water, anchored in the Bay close to the Island. The only armed defenders of the Island at that time were Captain JOHN MANNING, who communicated with the Commodores EVERTSON and BENCKES upon the weakness of his defense, and in three days New Netherlands was under the control of the Dutch. To the great honor of the English, however, their possession was very brief, for in the March following, by the terms of the Westminster treaty, Major EDMUND ANDROS, in the name of His Majesty, the King of England, was in full possession of all that MANNING had surrendered. Disgrace followed the surrender.

THE EFFORT TO SECURE SELF-GOVERNMENT

In the Province of New York, and which, in one form or another, the little County of Richmond at times took its part, may be traced back to 1649. The Dutch settlers here demanded as much liberty as was enjoyed in Holland, and in 1653, under orders to STUYVESANT, sometimes known as Director and sometimes as Governor, there was a schout or sheriff, two burgomasters and five schepens as successors to "the Nine Men," who had long been the chief rulers of the city of New Amsterdam. What is called monopoly was then in full force as ever since that time. The first Convention ever held in the Province, undertook to regulate the price of provisions and of most kinds of merchandise.

The first Convention met in 1653, then in 1663 and 1664, when Staten Island took part with Rensselaerwyck, Fort Orange, New Amsterdam, Wiltwyck, Harlem, New Utrecht, Brooklyn, Bushwick, Flatlands and Flatbush in a General Assembly of the whole State. This Island then had two representatives in the persons of DAVID DE MAREST and PIERRE BELLOU of the entire 21 members

of the Assembly. Ten Counties in 1664 represented the present New York. Under the first apportionment of 1771, Richmond County had two members of Assembly, and from 1791 on but one. In 1683, of the then twelve counties, two, Dukes and Cornwall, became a part of Massachusetts. The representatives of the Colonial Assembly from 1691 to 1769 numbered but thirty-one members; without Dukes and Cornwall, but 27 on to 1796. In each of these public meetings, Richmond County had at least two members. Kings, Queens, Ulster, Duchess and Albany, as the rule, had no more. In the 1st, 3d, 4th, 8th, 17th, 25th and 26th Colonial Assemblies, this County had three members. The nine counties of 1691 only increased to 16 (of the present sixty counties) as late as 1761. In the first Assembly, JOHN STACKWELL, Quaker, of Richmond, was dismissed for refusing to take the oath, and also NATHANIEL PEARSALL of Queens. JOHN TALLMAN, of Albany, was dismissed for presenting a paper "writ in barbarous English!" HUMPHREY UNDERHILL was excluded for refusing to attend "before he had his money." Another member was expelled for a little honest opposition to the Council and Assembly, and another in 1715 for a printed speech "made to the General Assembly, without leave of the House," in which we read "many false and scandalous reflections upon the Governor of this Province." Not many of the members in these Colonial Assemblies rested upon beds of roses. In 1713-14, one body was dissolved by the death of Queen ANNE, who gave the silver service to the St. Andrew's Church at Richmond, and another in August, 1727, by the death of GEORGE I., and another, March, 1761, by the death of GEORGE II.

Gov. DONGAN was the first Royal Chief Magistrate who permitted the people to elect their members of Assembly. In the Provincial Congress the county had five representatives; in the second, two; in the third, five, and in the fourth, none. These so called Congresses appear to be but another name for Assemblies, (the last of which was held in 1775), but with a larger representation. (Appendix B.)

THE TAXES AND PROPERTY 200 YEARS AGO.

Taxes, from time immemorial, have been the causes of conflict and the source of more than half the wars of Europe. They caused the war with England and forced the independence of the United States. In the form of tariffs and rates they are the one chief cause of contention all over our land and all over the world. But two hundred years ago upon this Island the tax was just one bushel of wheat for each eighty acres of land, and on Long Island one penny in the pound "for the County's charges."

The State papers tell us that at the first court, two overseers and one constable were here in 1665, and that the Island was exempt from the county's charge because, as we read :

"Staten Island is comprehended in the West Riding of Long Island, (and both Islands as one, in 1665, were called Yorkshire) but payeth noe tax, being enjoined by their Patents to pay a bushel of good winter wheate, *but never paid any yet* because (as they say) it hath not been demanded !"

When and where, indeed, have the people, singly or otherwise, been voluntary taxpayers ?

NEW YORK CITY'S CLAIM TO LOW WATER MARK.

The Earl of Clarendon to Gov. HUNTER of New York, July ye 31st, 1710, writes as follows on certain land grants :

"Lands between high water and low water mark on Staten Island lately granted to the city of New York for £300, being the lands lately in possession of several inhabitants of that Island, tho' now covered with the sea, the land being washed away."

In 1651 the boundaries of New Netherland are named, and Staten Island is placed upon the North River.

In a memoir of M. D'CHERVILLE on Boston and its dependencies, written in 1701, is the following :

"Staten Island, which is fully seven leagues in circumference, may have 450 effective men, most of whom are Dutchmen and Walloons, with a few English."

In 1883, with more than forty thousand people, the Island has no military company of her own, but to its credit there are now a score or more of worthy citizens who belong to the State National Guard.

THE WEST INDIA COMPANY AND ITS AGENTS.

One order and complaint of the West India Company, in 1650, was to HENDRICK VAN DYCK, a so-called fiscal, who had not kept a strict watch at Staten Island on the night on which he, C. MELYN, went over, as that was "the place where you could fall in with all the contraband goods that he hath run on shore there during the night and at unseasonable times."

This HENDRICK VAN DYCK, fiscal, is declared as "leading a dissolute life with dissolute conversation, with passing his time in drunkenness," and yet with all these sharp imputations, in one brief letter he is three times called "Honorable," "Beloved," "Valiant" and "Faithful!"

In the year 1663-4, a real Dutch grievance was named as "the neglect of Staten Island by abandoning the Block House with more men to defend the Island than the number of English who came and took it," and the answer of Ex-Director STUYVESANT, in 1666, was addressed to "the High and Mighty Lords States General of the United Netherlands!"

PAST AND PRESENT NAMES.

Most of the present homesteads at Port Richmond, Long Neck, the Fresh Kills and along what is known as the Kill von Kull, in the trying times of the early settlements, were made into block houses and stockades for protection against the Indians. The names and homesteads of families living here more than two hundred years ago now hold the lands occupied by their ancestors. Among those may be named the CONNERS, BODINES, CROCHERONS, DISOSWAYS, MORGANS, SEGUINES, SYMES, TYSONS, POILLONS and VAN PELTS. All of these names figure in the present as in the past times of the Island. Conspicuous among those whose estates were

confiscated here were PETER and JEREMIAH VAN DER BELT, JACQUES and ISAAC CORTELYOU, WILLIAM and BARENT JANSEN, JOHN VAN DYNE, NICHOLAS BRITTON RICHARD CORSEN, RICHARD, THOMAS, SAMUEL and NICHOLAS STILLWELL, TUNIS VAN WAGENER, THOMAS and DANIEL WANDEL, FRANCISCO MARTINO, CHRISTOPHER BILLOP, WILLIAM NORWOOD (who fled to the West Indies to escape execution), PETER LAKEMAN, THOMAS EGBERT, ABRAHAM LUTINE, CHARLES CODDINGTON, THOMAS WALTON.

FROM THE PERIOD OF THE REVOLUTION.

No reading can be more interesting to the students of Revolutionary history than the events which transpired in and around Staten Island. Recent years in the lives of millions of our present countrymen taught them both the cause and effect of civil war. The domestic strife from 1861 to 1865 found a million of men in arms at the close of the war, and another million killed, disabled or injured for life during the war. But these vast battle fields in territory were distant from us. In the War of the Revolution, as the records show, on this Island and in close neighborhood to it, the population counted at most but a few thousands. Near neighbors and dear friends were, if possible, in arms against each other more in 1776 than 1861-65. The King's ships surrounded the Island and all the city beyond it. Even little Bedloe's Island was held by malcontent Americans, who were nursed, fed and protected by the British, and when the Island was visited by a band of patriots they were fired upon and compelled to retreat, but not until, as Gov. TRYON informed Lord GEORGE GERMAIN, "they (the patriots) had killed a number of poultry which His Excellency had reserved for some choice meal for General Howe's expected arrival." This was in April, '76, when the Governor also tells us he had seized a prize vessel—one of the many taken elsewhere—from Staten Island docks.

Here, too, after consulting with Sir JOHN JOHNSON on the Mohawk, who gave the largest aid and comfort to

the enemy, having had three Indians for his guides and 130 Highlanders for his followers and 120 tories for companions, all *en route* to Canada, the Deputy Commissary, GUMERSALL, writes from Staten Island, August 26, 1776, of his safe return from a most treasonable journey to encourage the Indians to join the British forces.

The month before, arriving June 29th, General HOWE had disembarked his troops (July, 1776,) on Staten Island, and Gov. TRYON writes four days later that :

"The inhabitants of the Island came down to welcome their deliverers and have since afforded the army every supply and accommodation in their power."

In the same letter he adds :

"On Saturday last I rec'd the Militia of the Island at Richmond town, where near 400 appeared, who cheerfully, on my recommendation, took the oath of allegiance and fidelity to his Majesty."

The day following came another muster for the enlistment of volunteers to form a Provincial Corps for defence of the Island, "as the General finds it an important quarter to hold against the Rebels."

And this unwise Governor writes, further on, in most glorious hope, that :

"This loyalty to his Majesty and attachment to his Gov't upon the Island will be general through the Province as soon as the King's Army gets the main body of the Rebels between them and the sea !"

The next month came Lord DUNMORE and Mr. CAMPBELL, passengers in a fleet of twenty-five sail from the South ; and Lord GEORGE GERMAIN, a week later, writes from St. James, that :

"The steady loyalty of the people of Staten Island cannot be too much commended and their affectionate reception of the troops under Gen. HOWE cannot fail to recommend them to the particular favor of the Gov't," * * * and to "His Majesty's very great satisfaction in their conduct," and "His Majesty's paternal Regard and Constant Protection !"

A year later TRYON also writes to his Lordship that :

"The inhabitants of Staten Island have raised £500 for the comfort and encouragement of the Provincial forces raised in this Province."

New York, Queens and Suffolk, I may add, were even more ready in this work of profit and honor to their British enemies.

The Governor, TRYON, who thus figures so conspicuously for this Island, at the instance of Sir WILLIAM HOWE, was placed in command of all the loyal American levies as a compensation for his zeal.

In the Autumn before, November 11, 1775, he writes to the Earl of Dartmouth, from off the Island, as follows:

"It is certain that within this fortnight the spirit of Rebellion within this Province, especially in this city, has greatly abated, and we wait now for only 5,000 Regulars to open our Commerce and restore our valuable Constitution! The Counties of Westchester, Dutchess, King, Queen and *Richmond* had the bulk of their inhabitants well affected to the Gov't, and some friends in all the other Counties."

Here too is a characteristic local epistle:

GOV. TRYON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

"SHIP DUCHESS OF GORDON,

"Below the Narrows,

"N. Y., 15th April, 1776.

"MY LORD:—On the 7th inst. I fell down the River to the Phoenix, but before we reached the ship we were alarmed by heavy Platoon Firings from the Staten Island shore, which, by the help of a spy-glass, we discovered to be the enemy firing upon the seamen landed for water at the watering place under cover of the Savage Sloop of War. The Savage began a cannonade, which was kept up for some hours and until called off by a signal from the Phenix."

And this loyal Gov. TRYON notes "the grief and horror which this insult meant to the King's flag." It is pleasant to recall the fact that Gov. TRYON found at least some men upon the Island who were true to their own manhood and to the principles of free Government set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

From September, 1778, to February, 1779, this same Governor writes that 142 vessels, valued at £200,000, were brought into this port (all passing this Island) under letters of marque; but TRYON reckoned without his host when he closed with these words:

"This campaign will effect the much sought for reconciliation."

THE OLD BILLOP HOUSE

or homestead near Tottenville once covered a patent for 921 acres of land, and later on was increased to 1,600, remains as one of the memorial and historical places of the war; indeed it is one hundred years older than the Declaration of Independence and one of the two oldest upon the Island. Here were the headquarters of Lord HOWE, and here, by his invitation to Congress after the sad disasters on Long Island, came old JOHN ADAMS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN and EDWARD RUTLEDGE, Commissioners named by the Continental Congress to confer with the British Commander-in-Chief. No event of the war was more significant than this, every word of which sparkles with fire and life. It foreshadowed in the beginning what would be the end of the war. The interview was one of high loyal courtesy and of true Republican simplicity. A court of the most refined sovereigns of Europe could not be more dignified or polite. Submission was asked for in the name of the King of England upon the one side, and with all the promises and advances that the kingly office could attach to submission; and upon the other side separation and independence was asked for and demanded in the name of the whole American people. The three Commissioners left the Island surrounded by long lines of British troops with Lord HOWE for an escort in person. His Lordship placed his visitors upon his own barge with kindly words and with sad regrets that the mission which he had asked for had failed.

WASHINGTON was at this time encamped at Morristown, New Jersey, from whence the British were unable to dislodge his little army. Battle was more than once invited by a strong, well led and skillful British army. But WASHINGTON watched his opportunities and bided his time. He knew, and this was one of the chief reasons of his success, both his own weakness and his own strength. It was too soon for him to measure swords against a trained army. Like FABIVS MAXIMVS, who kept HANNIBAL in check without coming to an engagement, he made haste slowly, holding that patience was

the very essence of true valor. He remembered the Roman example and followed it through the war.

BILLOP's house, where he met the American Commissioners, was not only Lord Howe's headquarters but the owner thereof was a devotee of the Duke of York. He had sailed around Staten Island to prove that the Island belonged to New York, the Duke having decided that all islands lying in or near the harbor which could be circumnavigated in twenty-four hours belonged to his New York jurisdiction, and otherwise to New Jersey.

For this and like services, earlier and later in Europe and in America, the Crown bestowed upon BILLOP, in 1674, near Tottenville, 1,163 acres of land, and these acres were known as the BILLOP plantation. The owner was also made lieutenant of a company of one hundred men raised upon the Island, and three years later, by Gov. ANDROS, the successor of LOVELACE, a commander and a rate collector. We are told that he soon "misconducted" by making "extravagant speeches in public," and as a consequence lost his commission and retired to his plantation. The last we hear of BILLOP was his own charges made in turn against ANDROS, who was succeeded by BROCKHOLST.

Another famous place was the British fort on Richmond Hill and near the present Court House, now covered with trees and embankments and entangled with masses of briars. There is barely room now for two guns without limbers, and the old fort is seldom trodden by the foot of man. Here, for a long time, Lord Howe and his imposing chiefs of staff made their plans of battle. Here, commanded by the vicious and bloody SIMCOE, one of the staff, the Queen's Rangers were mustered into service. Here KNYPHAUSEN, chief of his Hessian troops, drilled his hireling forces. Here came Major ANDRE, but not now as a spy to forfeit his life, but as an officer to assist his commander-in-chief. Here too came Sir HENRY CLINTON, watching the movements of the army of "rebels" and consulting through many anxious days the probable consequences of rebellion against King GEORGE and the motherland.

The British, July 4th, 1776, took possession of Staten Island amidst the solemnity if not gloom of most of the inhabitants, a majority of whom were not English either by birth, inheritance or interest, yet dreading the war. From 1776 to 1783 the city beyond us, Long Island and this Island were without any representation in the counsels of the Province. When old Cambridge and old Boston had been relieved by WASHINGTON of their aspiring taskmasters, the British fleet, which found no rest in Boston Harbor, came filled with troops to New York for rest, and they found it here in successful possession to the hour of their final exit. That departure was to all true men as eyes to the blind, speech to the deaf and health to the infirm. The heart of one who looked upon this glad scene thus leaps within him in his expressions of joy :

“ We stood on the heights at the Narrows, looked down upon the decks of their ships ; were very boisterous in our demonstrations of joy. We shouted, clapped our hands, waved our hats, sprang into the air. Some fired a *feu de joie* ; others, in the exuberance of their gladness, indulged in gestures which, though very expressive, were neither wise nor judicious. The British resented the insult, and a large 74 fired and struck the bank a few feet from the spot where the shouts went forth, but as there was no cannon to answer the shot the crowd ran off as fast as they could. Another group which looked out upon the passing ships gazed upon the scene with tears in their eyes,”

The clouds which for seven years, like the curtains of a night without moon or stars, had hung over the land were now lifted from our little Island, and to the joy of all the sun of day rested upon its shores and people. Among those who left were faithless lovers and false husbands who had won confiding hearts in American homes, and among those who remained were many who were tired of fighting for pay, for glory and for Britain. Here upon virgin soil were the promises and rewards of peaceful labor. Here was part of the land which by “turf and twig” had been purchased, and which the Duke of York had pronounced “the most commodiouest seate and richest land in America !”

We may not now say this of the material value of this Island, but if there is real wealth in one of the fairest spots of earth, with the sea and bay for its outward borders and within uplands that for two score of miles overlook the surrounding country, and forests that in their Autumn glory reflect all the colorings of the sky and all the beauties of nature, then indeed this little island "remains the richest land in America!" See Appendix D.

THE ATTAINDER OF TREASON

was in many cases here a costly offence to those who indulged in disobedience to authority. In 1783 or '84 the Commissioners of Forfeiture of rebel estates compelled the sale of the Manor of BENTLEY of 850½ acres and 350 acres of other land belonging to CHRISTOPHER BILLOP, and 370 acres belonging to BENJAMIN SEAMAN. These two island estates placed about \$23,000 in the treasury. Twenty-four other pieces of tory property confiscated I find of record, but for nearly a century and a half all important local records of the county are missing.

On this subject of rebellion I am sorry to say that WASHINGTON felt compelled in one of his letters to speak not only of the "disaffection of the people of Amboy," but of "the treachery of those of Staten Island, who, after the fairest professions, have shown themselves our inveterate enemies!" And as a consequence he ordered that "all persons of known enmity and doubtful character should be removed from these places." Whether WASHINGTON ever landed upon Staten Island is disputed, but among his bills of charges is the following :

" 1776, April 25th.

"To the exps. of myself and party rec'tg sevl. landing places on Staten Island,£16. 10. 0."

Gen. HOWE in his letter to Lord GERMAIN, dated Staten Island, July 18, 1776, speaks of landing his Grenadiers and Light Infantry upon the Island, to "the great joy of a most loyal and long suffering people." These loyal tory people were, if not as to any very large numbers, without much long suffering, and the last record

was a creature of the imagination rather than a fact in real life. There were rebels enough, however, to give a bad name to the Island. The Provincial Congress and the prompt action of the Commander-in-Chief soon silenced all open expressions of treason, and compelled respect, if not obedience, to all prescribed public duties. That the rebuke of WASHINGTON became necessary is proved by the sending of three tories to the Provincial Assembly to represent the County. Their names are BEN. J. SEAMAN, his son-in-law CHRISTOPHER BILLOP, and ABRAHAM JONES.

The truth of history compels us to see and say that the controlling majority of this Island people were not in the beginning friends of civil liberty nor ready to separate themselves from the mother country. Too many of them literally gave aid and comfort to the enemy. If, however, we are inclined to be too critical at the present time upon the men of the past, it is always a wise rule to put yourself in the place of the man you censure.

Recently there came before me the following letter from General WASHINGTON, written in a very clear hand 103 years ago, to Capt. JUDAH ALDEN, commanding officer at Dobb's Ferry, which as a record of local history must be preserved :

HEADQUARTERS, 23d Novem., 1780.

SIR : I impart to you in confidence that I intend to execute an enterprise against Staten Island to-morrow night, for which reason I am desirous of cutting off all intercourse with the enemy on the east side of the river. You will therefore to-morrow at retreat beating set a guard upon any boats which may be at the flat or neck, and not suffer any to go out on any pretense whatever until next morning. Toward evening you will send a small party down to the Closter landing, and if they find any boats there you will give orders to have them scuttled in such a manner that they cannot be immediately used, but to prevent a possibility of it the party may remain there until toward daylight—but are not to make fires or discover themselves—and then return to your post. I depend upon the punctual observation of this order, and that you will keep this motive a secret. Acknowledge the rec't of this, that I may be sure you have got it.

I am, Sir, Yr. Most obt. Servt.,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

As misery loves company, we must remember that there were, if possible, worse evils than this local disaffection. Staten Island more than once had twenty thousand British troops on its shores and inland, while all along its borders were the British fleet. Within and without the enemy were in great force. Even personal aid and comfort to the enemy seemed a mild offence compared with the startling mutiny of the unpaid troops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, when, in January, 1781, LAFAYETTE was banished from their presence while pleading for obedience and order, and 500 guns were aimed at Gen. WAYNE for raising a pistol against disloyal troops. Even the loved name and presence of WASHINGTON and a large body of troops were necessary to compel the fidelity of the Jersey troops. But to the honor of these tempted and misled soldiers, when Sir HENRY CLINTON sent three American Tories to bribe and buy them with British gold they were hung upon the spot, and there was no more mutiny during the war.

PROBLEMS SOLVED BY TIME IN AMERICA.

First, let me say in conclusion, and I shall recite but a few of the many thoughts suggested from this record, is the fact that people may be gathered in one country from all the civilizations of the world, and there mingle together in harmony. As drops of water come from the uplands into the rivers and from the rivers into the sea, so separate peoples, states and nations, as we have seen in America, may become united, prosperous and happy. This we have seen from the first advanced steps taken and maintained in the march for free government in the early settlements of America. I need not say how much we owe to the civilizations which first pointed the way to America; to the Printing Press born in Germany, and there and elsewhere lifting the learning of all previous times from the monasteries and sepulchres where it had been so long concealed to that Anglo-Saxon race and life which secured freedom of worship to the Church and personal freedom to the State, with "right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for

all mankind. The first real triumph in America was seen in religious toleration when the Pilgrims were practically banished from one country and the Waldenses and Huguenots from another; but, alas, even this victory lost half of its moral force when, for a season, those who fled from the old world to secure toleration in the new failed to grant to others what they had demanded themselves.

SECOND: The other problem solved, and one in sympathy with the one I have named is that America is the home of the banished, exiled and voluntary escaping peoples of the crowded nations of Europe. We count about four millions of our people as immigrants from the old world, with probably as many more millions of their children born upon the soil. We are often alarmed at this rush across the seas, numbering, as they do at times, five, six and even seven hundred thousand in single years of time, and some of these multitudes are of the very ignorant, the very poor, and too many of the vicious classes. For these unwelcome classes there is but one relief, and that relief is the best possible education in all those solid branches of learning which teach first of all the ways of moral and material self support; and next to this, or rather as a part of this, the kind of education which makes honest and intelligent men and women. On this strong foundation you may build the best possible citizenship. No intelligent foreign born citizen, whatever his religious or political faith, will complain when I say that all who come to our shores for homes or for permanent trade, for living and dying, for the gains of prosperity or to endure the trials of adversity, should be thoroughly Americanized, and first of all in our schools and seminaries of learning and then in the letter and spirit of our liberal form of Government. Where these fail the discipline of authorized legal punishment must do the rest.

THIRD: Another problem solved is that Republics may have a long life and ample provisions for the common defense without large standing armies. A true Republic knows how to establish justice, secure

the general welfare, with civil and religious liberty ; how to be free from all entangling alliances with foreign nations ; how to preserve all federal authority which belongs to the General Government without infringing upon the powers which, by common consent, belong to the several States. Popular Government and Republican Government have nowhere seen in the world an example like this, and the root and branch of all such success rests upon self-restraint, self-government and self-preservation.

FOURTH : Another problem solved has been the rise and fall of domestic slavery. The end came by the sword, when the sword alone could cut the knot which held freedom and slavery in the same bond of political union. As the States grew in numbers and people the slaves increased to millions, and had the end not come when it did, and probably as it did, there would have been to-day six millions of slaves in thirteen of the thirty-eight States of the Union. Nothing but the terrible medicine of cannon, infantry and artillery, served at times by two millions of men, was equal to the crisis. The South invited Emancipation when it asked for Disunion, and the East, North and West accepted the invitation. When, after long delay and great provocation, President LINCOLN proclaimed Emancipation, it was for a time a life and death struggle, and freedom conquered in the end and with as much real advantage to the South as to the North.

In our criticisms of States where slavery was defended, in the presence of nearly four millions of slaves, we may as well remember that once upon this little Island there were nearly 1,000 slaves, or more than one-fourth of its entire population. Slavery came to its end here as much from profit as honor. We now heartily thank God that "this irrepressible conflict" has departed for all time and that no spot of earth is trodden by the footsteps of a slave in any State or territory of our American Union. In 1771, in a population of 2,847, there were 394 slaves here ; in 1790, with a population of 3,942, there were 819 slaves. "The peculiar institu-

tion," so-called, came to its end here only when it came to its end elsewhere, by proper forms of law, in the State. The first local record of slavery I can find is in 1755, when there were 59 male and 52 female slaves attested to in the following statement made from this Island to the Lt. Governor and General Assembly:

"A list of the *Neagrees* of my division in the North Couteny of Staten Island. JACOB CORSEN, *Jun.*"

In the list of owners, later on, THOMAS DONGAN is credited with seven males and three females.

The final problem I shall suggest but not discuss, is the real age of America within and beyond the time when HUDSON held council with the natives of this Island. If the history of Iceland is a true record, consecutively, at least during each century from the year 1,000 to the year 1,400, voyages were made in all these years before the discovery of COLUMBUS in the closing period of the fifteenth century. But these periods belong not to the present occasion, and are to most of us like an untold tale.

What we do know and understand, however, is the political and material growth of America and of the revolutions of time and events which maké us what we are. We have seen how true it is, in a moral sense, that revolutions never go backward. We trace them direct from the memorable forces of 1688 in England to the Declaration of Independence in America, and the fulfillment of that Declaration in the two wars with England, and in the greater conquest of ourselves in the final results of the civil war. The material growth we know of has been from a Province of 10,000 people to a State of five and a half millions; from a metropolis of two or three thousand to a city of 1,500,000; from an Island of a score of white people to one of 40,000, and this last has been, and for reasons you can well imagine, the slowest growth of all.

If, in conclusion, I am asked—and I am asked—the need or wisdom of this commemoration, the answer comes, in part, in our prosperous homes, in our material growth and wealth, in our personal freedom, and

in our local, State and national independence. "The little one has become a thousand and the strong one a great nation." Literally this comparatively small piece of land, covering about seven by fourteen miles, one of the smallest in the State, but large enough to be known all the time as the gem of the seas and the island of beauty, has grown from a colony of hardly forty people to a county of 40,000, and the Province of New York, in a very limited territory, in comparison with 1683, from twelve districts to sixty counties, and in a century of time from a population too small for a census to one of 5,500,000, with towns increased from about two score in 1683 to nearly 1,000, and beyond all these towns there are now in the State twenty-four grand cities and 230 villages. The nation has added since 1783 fifty-two millions to its population, and to its territory, in square miles, from 820,680 in 1803 to 3,466,166 in 1883, and all these miles, apart from the cost of war, for \$58,000,000. Beyond all these figures, I find in the presence of the large concourse of people before me, free from all the prejudices of sects or parties, of persons or places, abundant reason why, as fellow citizens, we may assemble at least once or twice in the space of one or two hundred years to thank God for the blessings of the past and to implore their continuance for all time to come.

Finally, you in this public manner recognize the first organization of the County of Richmond, which two hundred years ago to-day, under the first Charter of Liberties, granted by the British Government, proclaimed their right to receive, possess and retain all the privileges which belong to the citizens of a free commonwealth.

APPENDIX A.

Extract from Dr. EPHRAIM CLARK's letter to Hon. ERASTUS BROOKS, dated New York October 12th, 1883.

* * * * There is but the one deed of the Guion farm, dated March 25th, Twenty-seventh year of His Majesty's reign, Anno Domini, 1675. The deed is 208 years old, and is signed by EDMUND ANDROS for the British Government. The farm paid yearly, and every year, unto His Royal Highness, as a quit rent, eight bushels of good winter wheat. Another deed of conveyance is dated the 5th of May in the 11th year of the reign of "our Sovereign Lord King GEORGE the II. Later on, one in 1738, 145 years ago, and one on February 22d, "in the 28th year of His Majesty's reign," 1775, and this deed is 128 years old. This farm has been in the Guion family 212 years.

APPENDIX B.

The Assembly convened by Gov. DONGAN, first met at Port James, October 17, 1683, by authority of the Duke of York, and under the title of "Charter of Liberties and Privileges granted by His Royal Highness to the inhabitants of New York and its dependencies." In less than two years, when the Duke was King, or in March, 1685, the order came that "His Majesty doth not thinke it fit to confirm."

While the Assembly of 1683 was the first popular body known to the Island and Province, there was in 1664, a convention of delegates at Flushing, in which Staten Island was represented by DAVID DE MAREST and PIERRE BILJOU. The object of this call was "to represent to the States General and West India Company the distressed state of the country."

November 1st commemorates the date of the existence of the Charter of Liberties, the session of the Assembly which confirmed that charter and gave the first recognition of the rights of the people in the Province of New York. Richmond County, by act of the Assembly on this date, was made one of the 12 shires or counties of the State. It was in 1663 that Gov. DONGAN labored to extinguish the spirit of discontent, by declaring that "no laws or rates should be imposed for the future but by a General Assembly." In November, 1663, it was also declared that the New York County of Richmond contains Staten Island and the adjacent islands. Ten years later, August 15-25, PIERRE BILJOU, *Schout*, and two other *Schepens*, were the local authorities of Staten Island.

By order of the king, Gov. DONGAN was compelled to revoke the order for a second Assembly of the people convened in 1683. "You are to declare," writes King JAMES in 1686, "our will and pleasure, that the said Bill or Charter passed by the late Assembly of New York, be forthwith repealed and disallowed, as the same is hereby repealed, determined and made void." The only exception was the imposition of taxes and authority at Gov. DONGAN's good will and pleasure, to "permit all persons of what religions soever, quietly to inhabit in your government without giving them any disturbance or disquiet whatsoever by reason of their different opinions in matters of religion, provided they give no disturbance to the public peace, nor doe molest or disquiet others in the full exercise of their religion."

APPENDIX C.

INDIAN HISTORY, LIFE, MONEY, ETC.

The Indian life and manners of the Raritans make one of the interesting chapters in the Island history. The aborigines had neither knowledge of God nor of religion. They believed in good and evil spirits, and had their medicine man or spiritual priest, whose chief medicine was to roar like a demon to the sick and dying. This priest was called *Kitsinacka*. He traveled where he chose, made all homes his own, and his order was that only maiden hands and elderly single women should cook his food. The dead upon the Island, as elsewhere, were placed in the earth uncoffined, in a sitting posture, resting upon a stone or block of wood, and clothed in all their most costly apparel, with money in hand to pay their way to the spirit land. Pots, kettles, platters, spoons and provisions were near by to make the heavenly journey one of convenience and comfort. The Indians lived upon corn, fish and game, and clothed themselves in the skins of the beaver, the fox and the bear, which abounded upon the Island. Their weapons were bows and arrows, sharpened with fish bones or stones. The men had many wives, and the women cultivated the soil, the product of which was chiefly corn, beans, squashes and tobacco. Turkey corn was the general food. The health of the people was marvellously good, and disease was rarely known among them. Blindness, lameness and cramps, and what we call rheumatism, were ailments quite unknown.

The description of these Indian men and women, as handed down to us by WASSENAER, (Amsterdam, 1631-32), is that they were a well-fashioned people, strong in constitution of body, well-proportioned, and without blemish. In a certain sense, all were astronomers. The Sun, Moon and Stars inspired their awe if not their reverence, and the light of the Moon following its February and

August appearance, was made a season of rejoicing with a feast of game and fish, and for a marvel, after the intercourse with the white people, the drink was pure water.

THE INDIAN CURRENCY OR LEGAL TENDER MONEY was as simple as the leather money of ancient Greece. For 118 years, both for New Netherlands and New England, the basis of all money was *clamshells*, and the beds of these shells, found on Long and Staten Islands, were the real money mints of the aborigines. The single white wampum bead had the value of an English penny, and the black wampum beads had less value. Both were placed upon strings, just as the Chinese fasten their pennies. The Indian wampum was as much a manufacture as money coined in the U. S. mints, and the value put upon it was no more arbitrary than our present coined dollars, the value of which is but 15 per cent. of real value. The thin part of the clam shell was split off with a light hammer, ground into forms an inch long and half an inch thick. The pieces were bored longitudinally, strung upon hemp thread or the dried sinews of the beasts of the forests, and then sold by the chief. The wampum belts were the beads thus strung together. The Indians spurned the silver dollar, and knew nothing of gold values. They clung to their shell money, and 200 years ago the schoolmaster received his pay in wheat of wampum values, and the parents paid 12 stuyvers in wampum for each baptism. The ferriage between New York and Brooklyn ten years later, 1693, was equal to eight stuyvers, or a silver two-pence, payable in wampum, and the same kind of money was used between the Island and New York.

INDIANS AS LAND SPECULATORS.—The Island had a double sale of its land from the Indians. One MATTANO, Chief Indian and land speculator, was an example quite beyond the modern school. The land sold by him in 1651 was resold by him in 1664, and the last sale included Elizabethtown and stretched from the Raritan River to the Bay of New York. Essex County, N. J., was included in this tract, and the whole was sold for thirty-six pounds and fourteen shillings, or at the rate of ten acres for one cent. The Indian names appended to this sale are MATTANO, MARIAWOME and CONASCOMON. More than one tribe or set of Chiefs claimed to be the owners or masters of the Island. Later on the Dutch, the English, the Quakers in 1684 under WILLIAM PENN, New Jersey and New Netherlands, Kings CHARLES and JAMES, DONGAN and ANDROS, and finally the States of New York and New Jersey, have all laid claim to Staten Island, and the latter State adhered to this claim from 1807 to 1833, when the contest was closed by compromise. This ended a controversy of almost 220 years as to the true ownership. In 1670 it was purchased for King JAMES. In 1688 it was adjudged to belong to New York. In 1693 it was under a Dutch *schout* and two *schepens*. In 1681 Lady CARTERET claimed the Island as a part of East Jersey, by virtue of a grant from "His

Royal Highness," dated 1669, and the Duke of York claimed it as a purchase from the savages made in 1670.

REVOLUTIONARY RELICS.—The four chief Revolutionary posts upon the Island were at Fort Hill, Richmond Hill, Pavilion Hill, Herpicks' Observatory and all around bayonets, balls and flint locks and other evidences of war have been found in great abundance.

APPENDIX D.

GENERAL NOTES UPON STATEN ISLAND.

I am indebted to ARTHUR HALLECK, Esq., and others, for the following combination of facts upon Indian and revolutionary relics, geology, mineralogy, coast lines, botany, &c., of the Island, received in reply to a request for this information :

ARCHÆOLOGY.—There are two marked locations where the aborigines used to congregate. One at Watchogue or Bloomfield, in Northfield, and the other near the BILLOP House, Tottenville, and Princes Bay in Westfield.

Hundreds of stone implements (pestles, mortars, hatchets, sinkers, arrow heads, beads, &c.) have been found mixed up with the shells.

Indian burying grounds have been discovered near Tottenville, and isolated remains at other points, notably near the old forts of Revolutionary times. In these grounds the skeletons were always accompanied by arrow heads, tomahawks, &c. In one of them implements resembling knitting needles, and stone beads were used as ornaments.

At Watchogue the heap of chips and broken implements were evidently dropped in the manufacture of ornaments or wampum. The majority of arrow heads found in these shell heaps are hunting arrows showing that the Indians were on peaceful expeditions. The war arrows were found in the burying grounds or near the old forts.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.—There are five geological formations on the island: The *primitive granite*, whose only outcrop is seen just below Nautilus Hall at Tompkinsville. The *archean serpentine*, forming the "backbone" of the Island from Brighton Point to Richmond, is represented by hills of soapstone and serpentine. The *triassic* is represented by red shales and the trap dyke or "granite" ridge of Graniteville, extending from Port Richmond to Linoleumville. The *cretaceous*, consisting of clays and sands at Tottenville and Kreischerville, and finally a *drift* covers all but a small portion near the extreme southern and western part of the

Island. Many of these formations are of great economic value. The trap rock at Graniteville, erroneously called "granite," is used for macadam and paving. The clays at Kreischerville make the very best fire brick. The drift clays at Elm Park and Green Ridge make fine building brick. The gravel beds of the drift yield the best building sand for mortar. "Asbestos" from the soapstone hills has been used, when mixed with other substances, as a valuable anti-friction compound. On top of the serpentine there are local deposits of "limonite" or bog iron ore, which has been very extensively worked. It is very rich, easily worked, but not in large quantities.

THE ISLAND COAST LINES.—People now living have seen 200 feet of the beach carried away near New Dorp, and what was once salt meadow is far out below low water mark. The old meadow turf and the stumps of cedar trees are still seen. This material thus borne down the beach has extended the long spit of sand at the mouth of Great Kills, near Giffords. A considerable deposit of magnetic sand is noticed at South Beach, near New Dorp, and from time to time projects for utilizing it have been entertained. This is a part of the iron washed by the river current, and in this drift is seen specimens of nearly all the rocks between New Dorp and Canada, just as they were transported by the continental glacier whose southern limit in this part of the United States was across the Southern end of Staten Island. This line of glacial deposits is unmistakable, and the bluff at Princes Bay is one of its boldest features. Among these specimens are found granite from the Canadian Highlands, boulders of limestone from the upper Hudson River, containing fossils, and stray pieces of lead and iron ore from the deposits of New York or New England.

OUR ISLAND BOTANY.—No section of the country east of the Mississippi, of an equal area, is as rich in plant life as Staten Island. Local botanists have recorded about 1,300 plants apart from those grown by cultivation. This is due to the great diversity in physiographic conditions. Salt and fresh water, woods, dry hills and swamps are all here about. These and the different geological formations give rise to a great variety in the flora. Fifty of these species are found in no other county in the State, and these are mostly found on the little piece of cretacea near Tottenville, which is a continuation of the Amboy clay beds. Twenty-two species new to the State of New York have been found within the last three years. The "trailing arbutus" or "May flower" is gathered here by basketfuls every spring, as it is the nearest point to New York where it is known to grow. It is likely to be exterminated in a few years. The "salt hay" here is a species of rush found upon our salt meadows. Water cress is grown extensively in streams on the west side. The original plants were probably native here.

Our forest growth is an important factor in our prosperity, or will be a few years hence, if we expect to obtain our water supply from the Island. The water courses, now only full of water when it rains, were formerly constant running brooks. Old springs are dried up, and ponds which used to overflow continually by a running stream have become either muddy pools, stagnant swamps, or are obliterated.

THE SANITARY ASPECT OF THE ISLAND.—Living springs and running water do not produce malaria, but swamps and stagnant pools are a real danger, and assist in breeding mosquitos.

ZOOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.—Formerly deer, foxes and many other large animals are known to have lived and bred here. Now we only have squirrels, rabbits, skunks, muskrats, and other small rodents, with perhaps a few weasels.

With the disappearance of the woods the game leaves us. A few quail and woodcock are still to be found and some wild pigeon. Snipe are occasionally plentiful. Stray ducks find their way here. In severe winters an eagle is sometimes seen. The patient fisherman can even yet hook a trout in some of our streams and ponds. Seals visit us and would remain if not disturbed.

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